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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJ: MEDIA REPORT, MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 17

NO. 28

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

SUMMARY: HAK RECEIVES GREEN LIGHT ISRAELI CABINET CONTINUE
NEGOTIATIONS. HAK PUTS NEWS BLACKOUT ON NEGOTIATING DETAILS.
KOPPEL SEES NO BREAKTHROUGH AND U.S. OFFICIALS GLOOMILY
PREDICT 10 MORE SHUTTLE DAYS. KALB SAYS LARGE GAP REMAINS
AND POLITICAL ISSUE MUST BE SOLVED OR NEGOTIATION MAY
COLLAPSE. GWERTZMAN'S NOTEBOOK SAYS HAK OUTLINES TRAVEL
SCHEDULE THROUGH 75 AND HAK SPECULATES ON HIS SUCCESSOR.
END SUMMARY.

R/TV

1. KOPPEL, ABC-TV FROM JERUSALEM: HAK'S MISSION IS NOW
12 DAYS OLD AND RUNNING INTO STORMY WEATHER. WHEN HAK LEFT
ASWAN LAST FRIDAY THERE WAS A SENSE OF MOMENTUM. EGYPTIAN
OFFICIALS WERE ALMOST BLATANTLY OPTIMISTIC, ATLEAST IN
PRIVATE. HAK'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS SUGGESTED THAT A BREAK-
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THROUGH WAS POSSIBLE, AND SENIOR U. S. OFFICIALS WERE
TELLING NEWSMEN THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS WERE APPROACHING
A CRITICALJUNCTURE, AND THAT ISRAEL WAS NOW FACING A CRUNCH.

OVER WEEKEND, HOWEVER, ISRAELIS HAVE ADROITLY TURNED THAT AROUND. THERE IS NO SUGGESTION OF A BREAKTHROUGH TODAY. U. S. OFFICIALS ARE GLOOMILY PREDICTING THAT SHUTTLE AT LEAST HAS ANOTHER 10 DAYS TO RUN AND THERE IS NO EASE IN ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO GIVE UP THOSE STRATEGIC MOUNTAIN PASSES OR OILFIELDS IN SINAI. INSTEAD ISRAELIS HAVE ELECTED NOTION OF A 30 MILE WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI, NO OIL FIELDS, NO PASSES AND THEY WANT HAK TO FIND OUT WHAT CONCESSIONS EGYPT IS WILLING TO MAKE FOR THAT.

2. KALB, CBS-TV FROM ISRAEL: NO ONE IS POUNDING TABLE OR RAISING HIS VOICE BUT TALKS HERE IN JERUSALEM HAVE BEEN VERY TOUCHY. HAK MET WITH PM RABIN ALONE AND THEN WITH THEIR TOP AIDES THIS MORNING AS HE DID LAST NIGHT AND HAK WILL CARRY ISRAEL'S LATEST IDEAS FOR A SINAI AGREEMENT BACK TO EGYPT WHERE HE WILL PRESENT THEM TO SADAT PROBABLY THIS EVENING. ISRAELI LEADERS SAY THEY WANT AN AGREEMENT BUT NOT AT ANY PRICE, AND THEY INSIST THAT IF THEY ARE GOING TO GIVE UP TWO STRATEGIC PASSES IN SINAI, SADAT WILL HAVE TO GIVE UP MILITARY OPTION AGAINST ISRAEL. RABIN TOLD HAK THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT EXPECT INSTANT PEACE BUT IT DOES EXPECT MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE BASED ON MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE ONE STATE BY THE OTHER. SADAT THEY THINK WANTS AN AGREEMENT TOO. IN FACT HE HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED IDEA OF A SEPARATE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL PUBLICLY CONTRACTED. BUT ISRAELIS THINK HE HAS NOT GONE FAR ENOUGH TOWARDS MEETING THEIR DEMANDS FOR NON-BELLIGERENCY. A LARGE GAP REMAINS ON THIS KEY POLITICAL ISSUE. IT MUST BE SOLVED THIS WEEK ONE WAY OR OTHER OR THIS NEGOTIATION MAY COLLAPSE.

NOTE: THIS SAME COMMENT WAS CARRIED IN A MODIFIED FORM ON CBS RADIO, WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP AT 8 O'CLOCK.

WIRES

UPI, JERUSALEM: HAK MET WITH PM RABIN TODAY TO GET ISRAELI ANSWER HAKHOPES WILL KEEP HIS SHUTTLE MISSION GOING IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SEARCH OF A SECOND STAGE ACCORD BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL.

HE HAD A GREEN LIGHT TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS FROM ISRAELI CABINET BUT IT WAS UNCLEAR WHAT PROPOSAL HE WAS TAKING BACK TO SADAT WHEN HE TOOK OFF FOR ASWAN TO BEGIN HIS THIRD SHUTTLE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

BEFORE LEAVING FOR EGYPT, HAK FIRST HAD BREAKFAST WITH RABIN AND THEN MET FULL ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM FOR 90 MINUTES.

AFTERWARDS HE SAID, "WE REVIEWED ONCE AGAIN IDEAS WHICH I BROUGHT FROM EGYPT AND ISRAELI REACTION AS WELL AS

CONSIDERATIONS WHICH ISRAELI CABINET ARE ASKING ME TO TAKE TO EGYPT."

ISRAELI SOURCES SAID GAP STILL EXISTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ON WHAT SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE AND THAT ISRAEL WAS NOT YET TALKING ABOUT TERRITORIAL ISSUES--A FORMAL OFFER TO WITHDRAW FROM ABU RUDEIS OILFIELDS AND SINAI MT. PASSES.

HAK PUT NEWS BLACKOUT ON DETAILS OF NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS WERE FULL OF SPECULATION AND REPORTS.

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE POST SAID EGYPT WAS NOT PREPARED TO SIGN NON-BELLIGERENCY DECLARATION THAT ISRAEL HAS DEMANDED.

2. AP, SCHWEID, JERUSALEM: HAK FLIES TO EGYPT TODAY WITH NEW WORD FROM ISRAEL ABOUT PROPOSED SINAI WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT BUT APPARENTLY WITHOUT ANY MAJOR CONCESSIONS.

AFTER A 4-HOUR NEGOTIATING SESSION SUN DAY, FM ALLON SAID HE PREMIER RABIN AND PERES HAD GIVEN HAK "PROPOSALS", BUT HAK TERMED THEM "IDEAS".

HOWEVER, ISRAELI CABINET MET EARLIER AND AUTHORIZED ITS NEGOTIATORS TO CONTINUE TALKS ON BASIS OF GUIDELINES SET EARLIER BY CABINET.

THIS INDICATED THAT A PULL BACK TO 20- TO 30- MILES IN SINAI DESERT WAS STILL MAXIMUM ISRAELI OFFER, AND THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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EGYPT HAD NOT YET OFFERED SUFFICIENT INDUCEMENT FOR THEM TO GIVE UP ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS AND STRATEGIC MITLA AND GIDI PASSES.

IN CAIRO, MEANWHILE, AN EGYPTIAN GOVT SPOKESMAN SAID EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL HAK TOOK TO ISRAEL LAST WEEK "CONSTITUTE A FIRM EGYPTIAN POSITION WHICH IS NOT SUBJECT TO MANEUVERS OR OUTBIDDING."

ISRAELIS SAID THESE PROPOSALS, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DISCLOSED WERE "INSUFFICIENT, AND EVEN UNSATISFACTORY" IN SOME ASPECTS

EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN SAID EGYPT, BECAUSE OF WHAT IT IS SPENDING TO REOPEN SUEZ CANAL AND REBUILD CITIES ALONG WATERWAY, SHOULD BE "ASSURED OF AN ADEQUATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FOR PROTECTING ITS HUGE HUMAN INVESTMENT IN REGION."

NEWSPAPERS

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1. NYTIMES, PAGE ONE, SMITH FROM JERUSALEM SAYS TALKS BETWEEN ISRAELI LEADERS AND HAK RESUMED IN JERUSALEM AFTER CABINET HAD EMPOWERED ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM TO CONTINUE

EFFORTS TO REACH A NEW SINAI AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT.

2. NYTIMES, PAGE ONE, TANNER FROM ASWAN SAYS EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SAID THEY EXPECTED A NEW ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI TO BE CARRIED OUT OVER A PERIOD OF 3 TO 6 MONTHS IF HAK WAS SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING ABOUT A NEW AGREEMENT.

3. NYTIMES, GWERTZMAN, PAGE ONE, REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK EXCERPTS: JERUSALEM: ON WAY TO ASWAN SEVERAL NIGHTS AGO, NEWSMEN IN REAR OF HAK'S PLANE WERE TALKING ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF HIS RESIGNING...

IN MIDST OF DISCUSSION, HAK WALKED BACK AND FOUND HIMSELF IN UNUSUAL SITUATION OF TALKING ABOUT MAN WHO MIGHT SUCCEED HIM. HE CAREFULLY GAVE NO CLUES AS TO HIS PLANS TO STAY OR NOT TO STAY, BUT HE DID OUTLINE A TRAVEL SCHEDULE THAT WOULD KEEP HIM BUSY THROUGH THE YEAR.

HAK SEEMED UNPERTURBED BY SUBJECT AND EVEN FASCINATED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECULATION ABOUT A SUCCESSOR. HE GAVE NO FIRST CHOICE, BUT DID CONFIRM THAT HE THOUGHT VERY HIGHLY OF ELLIOTT L. RICHARDSON...

OTHERS WHOSE NAMES WERE MENTIONED AND DISCUSSED INCLUDED GEORGE W. BALL, MELVIN LAIRD, JAMES R. SCHLESINGER, ROBERT S- MCNAMARA, CYRUS R. VANCE, ZBIGNIEW BZEZINSKI, A SOVIET EXPERT FROM ACADEMIC COMMUNITY...

IMPRESSION GIVEN THIS CORRESPONDENT WAS THAT HAK WAS PREPARING HIMSELF FOR FACT THAT HIS TIME WAS RUNNING OUT AS SECRETARY OF STATE. CERTAINLY HE SEEMS VERY RELAXED ON THIS TRIP NOW IN ITS 12TH DAY--SO RELAXED THAT SOME SUSPECT HE MAY BE PLAYING A ROLE...

AT SEVERAL STOPS, DIPLOMATS HAVE ASKED MEMBERS OF HAK PARTY WHETHER HE WOULD CUT TRIP SHORT TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON BECAUSE OF CAMBODIA'S DESPERATE SITUATION. HAK ACTED SURPRISED AT SUCH QUESTIONS. "WHAT MORE CAN I DO?" HAS BEEN HIS USUAL RESPONSE. "THE FATE OF CAMBODIA IS IN OTHERS' HANDS."

...MAIN PROBLEM FOR NEWSMEN ON THIS SHUTTLE, AS ON PREVIOUS HAK MEDIATION MISSIONS, HAS BEEN EXTREME DIFFICULTY IN SORTING OUT FACT FROM FANCY. AS A GOOD MEDIATOR, HAK HAS PLEDGED BOTH EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS TO SECRECY ABOUT DETAILS OF DISCUSSION.

BUT WHAT FAHMY OR HIS ASSOCIATES TELL AN AMERICAN NEWSMEN SEEMS TO HAVE ONLY REMOTE RELEVANCE TO WHAT SADAT MAY BE TELLING HAK IN PRIVATE. IN FACT, THERE IS REASON TO SUSPECT

THAT THEY MAY BE TELLING AMERICAN NEWSMEN ALMOST OPPOSITE AT TIMES.

FOR INSTANCE, AT VERY TIME SADAT WAS GIVING HAK SOME FORMULATIONS TO TAKE TO ISRAEL, HIGH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS WERE SAYING THAT EGYPT WOULD MAKE NO CONCESSIONS AT ALL.

CLEARLY, EGYPTIAN SIDE WANTS ITS ARAB ALLIES TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS STANDING FIRM IN DEMANDING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS FROM ISRAEL WITHOUT MAKING ANY OF ITS OWN...
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OTHER DAY, RABIN'S SPOKESMAN CAME INTO LOBBY TO READ FROM NOTES SHARPLY CRITICAL OF EGYPT'S POSITION IN TALKS. HE FORBADE NEWSMEN TO USE HIS NAME, BUT ISRAELI RADIO BROADCAST HIS REMARKS FROM A TAPE, ALSO WITHOUT SAYING WHO HE WAS. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AS IF AN AMERICAN RADIO STATION PLAYED SOME OF HAK'S "BACKGROUND" COMMENTS ON AIR AND SAID THEY WERE FROM AN UNNAMED OFFICIAL.

LESS THAN AN HOUR AFTER ISRAELIS HAD CRITICIZED EGYPTIAN POSITION, HAK AND HIS AIDES WERE EXPRESSING ASTONISHMENT AS THEY HAD RECEIVED A MUCH MORE ENCOURAGING RESPONSE FROM ISRAELIS IN PRIVATE.

HAK VERY MUCH WANTS AN AGREEMENT AND IS CAREFUL TO TAILOR HIS REMARKS TO PROMOTE ONE....

HAK IS A PRIME TARGET FOR TERRORISTS, PARTICULARLY IN THIS PART OF WORLD, WHERE HIS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AN ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ARE ANATHEMA TO SOME PALESTINIAN GROUPS.

RESULT HAS BEEN A STEADY INCREASE IN SECURITY, SO THAT HAK RECEIVES KIND OF PROTECTION NORMALLY AFFORDED AMERICAN PRESIDENTS...

ON THIS TRIP THERE ARE TWO SUCH LIMOUSINES, AND A C-141 FLIE ONE TO NEXT STOP. THERE ARE SAID TO BE 50 PERCENT MORE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS ON THIS TRIP....

4. NYDAILY NEWS,CARTER,PAGE 6, JERUSALEM: ISRAELI CABINET, WARY OF BEING PUSHED TOO FAR TOO QUICKLY, HELD OFF TODAY FROM A NEW OFFER FOR A SINAI DISENGAGEMENT PACT AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER HAK HAS MADE ANOTHER TRIP TO EGYPT AND BACK.

ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAID THEY DID GIVE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE "SOME NEW IDEAS" TONIGHT THAT THEY BELIEVED WOULD BE ENOUGH TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS GOING. BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT NEW IDEAS FELL SHORT OF MAJOR ISRAELI DECISION THAT HAK HAD HOPED WOULD BE MADE AT TODAY'S CABINET MEETING.

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ISRAELIS WERE OBVIOUSLY STILL RELUCTANT TO OFFER MAJOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS TO EGYPT, SUCH AS RETURN OF STRATEGIC SINAI MT. PASSES....

5. WASHPOST, BERGER, JERUSALEM: ISRAELI CABINET DECIDED TODAY TO STICK WITH ITS EARLIER NEGOTIATING DEMANDS, THUS SENDING HAK BACK TO EGYPT TO SEEK POLITICAL CONCESSIONS TO OBTAIN A NEW DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD.

WHILE CABINET MET, HAK WAS IN AMMAN, BRIEFING KING HUSSEIN ON NEGOTIATIONS. ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT FORD, HAK INVITED HUSSEIN TO VISIT U.S. LATE NEXT MONTH AND KING ACCEPTED.

...NEGOTIATING TEAM WILL BE EMPOWERED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS IN AN EFFORT TO NARROW GAP... "BUT," HE SAID, "THAT GAP IS QUITE A GAP;"...

...EXISTING ISRAELI CABINET POSITION APPROVES WITHDRAWAL OF FROM 18 TO 30 MILES ONLY, WHICH INCLUDES NEITHER PASSES NOR OIL FIELDS.

AN ISRAELI OFFICIAL SAID DETERMINATION OF GOVT TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS HOPE THAT SOMETHING CAN DEVELOP.

MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK OFFICIALS SAID, IS EGYPTIAN INSISTENCE THAT ANY NEW ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL BE IN CONTEXT OF A MILITARY AGREEMENT...

ISRAELI OFFICIAL SAID THAT WHILE CABINET SOUGHT MORE FROM EGYPT ON ISSUE OF NON-BELLIGERENCE, IT DID NOT OVERLOOK FACT THAT "IN CONCRETE TERMS," SOME OF EGYPTIAN SUGGESTIONS COULD BE CONSIDERED POSITIVE.

-. FLYING HERE FROM JORDAN TODAY, HAK PLANE FOR FIRST TIME TOOK DIRECT ROUTE OVER JERICHO, THUS OVERFLYING OCCUPIED WEST BANK...

...HAK EXPRESSED SURPRISE WHEN ASKED WHAT KIND OF NEGOTIATIONS MADE THIS NEW ROUTING POSSIBLE. HE SAID HE KNEW NOTHING OF CHANGE.

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ISRAELI SOURCES SAID THEY HAVE NEVER OBJECTED TO A ROUTE OVER WEST BANK, SO APPARENTLY JORDANIANS DROPPED THEIR OPPOSITION...

6. WALL ST. JOURNAL, LEVINE, PAGE 7, JERUSALEM: AMID SIGNS

OF SLOW PROGRESS, HAK'S ME PEACE MISSION IS ENTERING SERIOUS STAGE, WITH ISRAEL STILL RELUCTANT TO MAKE MAJOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS TO EGYPT IN SINAI DESERT.

...AFTER TWO FULL ROUNDS OF TALKS WITH ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS...

"WE ARE HOPEFUL", ONE ISRAELI GOVT INSI8ER SAID. "WE BELIEVE THIS IS WAY TO GO. THERE IS STILL A GOOD CHANCE HEADWAY WILL BE MADE."

ISRAEL IS CURRENTLY SEEKING FURTHER CONCESSIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS FROM EGYPTIANS. BASICALLY, ISRAELIS WANT AN EGYPTIAN PLEDGE OF NON-BELLIGERENCY AND STEPS POINTING TOWARD EVENTUAL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM. WHETHER SADAT CAN RESPOND ADEQUATELY AND STILL SURVIVE POLITICALLY IN ARAB WORLD REMAINS OWE OF

AT THIS POINT, BOTH ISRAELI GOVT AND PUBLIC IS AFRAID OF BEING PRESSURED BY HAK INTO SURRENDERING TERRITORY WITHOUT RECEIVING ADEQUATE MILITARY AND POLITICAL SSSURANCES IN RETURN. MANY ISRAELIS WORRY THAT SECRETARY ISMORE INTERESSTE IN DEFUSING ME SITUATION--AND THERBY IMPROVING AMERICA'S RELATIONS WITH OIL-RICH ARAB STATES--THAN IN FULLY PROTECTING INTERESTS OF ISRAEL...

SUCH FEARS WERE STIMULATED BY REPORTS OF SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAYING ON FRIDAY THAT TIME HAD COME FOR ISREAL TO CONSIDER REVISING ITS TERRITORIAL PROPOSALS OF LAST DECEMBER....

IN ADDITION TO DEALING WITH TOUCHY ISSUESOF NON-BELLIGERENCY PLEDGE, HAK ALSO APPEARS TO BE GROPING FOR SOME WAY TO INCLUDE SYRIANS IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS--IF ONLY IN FORM OF LANGUAGE HINTING AT FUTURE TALKS BWTWEEN ISRAELIS AND SYRIAN; ON UNCLASSIFIED

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FURTHER GOLANHEIGHTS DISENGAGEMENT... ROBINSON

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